

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 27th 2008
THUMBS UP!
Sonora CA

Board Members Present:

Jill Ames
Deirdre Wright
Gary Del Nero
Robert Balderama
Mary Dye
Brad Putz
Anna Newman
Gwen Caldera

Staff Present:

Dena Hernandez-Lead Staff
George Lewis- Community Program Specialist II
Neil Fromm-Community Program Specialist II

Facilitators:

David Simmerly
Paula Short-Lund

Board Members Absent:

Traci Trujillo
Mollie Rogers
John Lundberg

Guests:

Peggy Cunningham
Dave Simmerly

Call to order and introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 by Gary Del Nero the Chairperson. Mr. Del Nero called for review and approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting. Motions were made seconded and passed by the Board to approve the minutes and agenda.

Public Comment:

None

Presentations:

Dave Simmerly gave an update in regard to activities at THUMBS UP! He spoke continuing to work collaboratively with other community resources such as the food bank. He gave an update about progress on the video that was funded through a State Council mini-grant. The video production has been completed and it is currently in the process of being edited. Dave expects a final version within days. He described how the video portrays people in their community, at work, in residence and involved in recreational pursuits. Dave also invited the Board to attend a June 27th open house at THUMBS UP!

Peggy Cunningham described the wellness action project completed by the ARC of Amador/Calaveras that was also funded through a State Council mini-grant. She spoke of hiring a consultant who assisted with designing the product (an eight week course with an emphasis on emotional wellness, affirmation and mediation). She passed around a copy of a binder that included a journal and spoke of the value of affirmation in regulating emotional health.

Area Board/State Council Update:

Dena Hernandez shared that the process has begun to select a new Area Board 6 Executive Director. Dena described the fundamentals of the hiring process noting that Gary Del Nero will be working together with Laurie Hoirup of the State Council to work through the 8 steps outlined in the Board packet. Vacancy announcements will be posted. The State Council will first screen applications for necessary technical qualifications. Qualified candidates will be interviewed by a Board subcommittee chaired by Gary Del Nero that will select highly qualified candidates and provide nominations to the Area Board 6 for consideration. The full Board will interview the candidates and will choose one person as their preference for the position of as Executive Director. The board's selection is then forwarded to the State Council for final approval. Dena noted the process will probably be completed by October 1st 2008. The plan is to advertise the position in a variety of ways with consideration being given first to current state employees and then to people not working for the state. Three qualified candidates must be located to proceed with the hiring process. Dena noted that she had received contact from Board Member Traci Trujillo and that she will be available to assist in the search for the new Executive Director. She also asked that Board members review the position description included in the packet.

Board Member Reports:

Robert Balderama noted that he was unable to attend the last VMRC Board meeting.

Mary Dye spoke of attending Amador Transportation meeting where she has been advocating for coordination of bus routes between ARTS and ACTC (the two public transportation providers in the county). Mary also shared that another goal is to eliminate unserved areas.

Anna Newman brought a newspaper article about an acquaintance who has a disability but who is also a volunteer fire fighter in Amador County.

Brad Putz spoke of his work at the State Council and shared how legislation is reviewed by the Council with recommendations expressed in regard to support. Dena shared that a copy of proposed legislation with recommendations is included in the Board packet and that also available to the Board is a copy of the budget with the Governor's May revision. Brad also noted that his term as a Board member will be up in the near future and that his time of service is to end by July of 2009.

Jill Ames spoke of her participation in Partners in Policy Making and a recent trip to Sacramento to support continued current level of services for disabled people.

Staff Report:

Dena Hernandez spoke of continued successful progress on the LQA project and noted the successful inclusion of the LQAX database in keeping track of LQA progress. She also shared with the Board the collaboration between the Area Board 6 and VMRC in promoting the concepts outlined in proposed legislation AB2424 and noted a conference to occur on May 30th at SJCOE to develop action items in support of the proposed legislation. She also shared that she anticipated a response from VMRC in regard to the letter sent by the Area Board 6 expressing concern about missed time lines for Early Start services in the VMRC catchment. Board Chair Del Nero said that he believed this to be an appropriate agenda item for the next Board meeting.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

Minutes: Neil Fromm

Report by Mollie Rogers

Most kids in Calaveras County can play in the parks, and do what any kids do.

But if they have a disability, they sometimes can't get through the sand, or play sports.

Sometimes families can't get the busses to go to their homes.

Sometimes the busses are late or their hours change.

We do not have Special Olympics for kids, but we have bowling for the ARC.

It is hard for their parents to find child care.

Sometimes it is hard to find special doctors or nurses. Sometimes families have to go very far for medical care.

We are lucky that Dr. Thompson is opening an Autism Clinic.

I attended a Self-Advocacy meeting in Stockton with ARC staff and friends. We listened to speakers who talked about mini-grants. We are thinking of ideas for mini-grants.

I think self-advocacy meetings at the ARC are almost like People First. We talk about what we need in Calaveras.

We need the busses to pick us up at our homes.

We need our own places to live and more apartments that we can afford.

We need places to eat and work, like In-and-Out.

We need places we can shop.

We need a chance to take vacations with our friends.

I would like to help make these things happen in Calaveras County.